



Recognizing Architects Who Shape The
Built Environment Through
Visionary Practice, Intellectual Rigor,
And Contextual Responsibility

Celebrating Architecture

An initiative of

ARCHICONNECT



Host Platform



Strategic Partner



Background

The Bengal Delta is formed by the convergence of mighty rivers like the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, where the countless distributaries merge and flow together depositing massive amounts of nutrient-rich soil before meeting the Bay of Bengal.

The Delta Festival: It is the ultimate symbol of unity in diversity. The festival represents a melting pot where different voices, art forms, or industries come together to create a singular, powerful impact.

The Delta Award: This represents an environment of extreme creativity, growth, and abundance. The awards recognize individuals or projects that act like that rich soil—nurturing new ideas, talent, and cultural wealth.

Introduction

The **Delta Festival of Architecture (DFA) 2026** is the region's premier celebration of architectural design, innovation, and climate-responsive practice. This initiative is being co-organized by ARCHICONNECT, CEMS Global, and The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, has joined the initiative as Strategic Partner. This landmark three-day festival and expo at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) bridges the gap between visionary design, industrial manufacturing, and environmental stewardship within our built environment. The festival is purposefully named after the dynamic, water-shaped landscape of Bangladesh—the world's largest river delta.

The absolute anchor of this event is the **Delta Award for Architecture**. Focusing exclusively on the finest built works within Bangladesh, this rigorously judged accolade celebrates the professionals who are pushing the boundaries of contextual design, sustainability, and spatial excellence. It stands as the ultimate benchmark of peer recognition in the country, culminating in the prestigious **Delta Awards Gala Night on November 12**.

This award aspires to establish a credible, inclusive, and enduring institution that celebrates architectural excellence, nurtures emerging talent, and champions responsible, sustainable, and culturally resonant design practice across Bangladesh.

Objectives of the Awards

The Delta Award for Architecture are guided by the following foundational objectives:

- To recognize and celebrate excellence in architectural design, honoring outstanding projects and contributions to the built environment of Bangladesh.
- To encourage innovation, creative ambition, and the highest standards of professional practice within the discipline of architecture.
- To promote socially conscious and contextually responsive architecture that deepens the quality of the built environment and enriches human experience.
- To highlight sustainable design
 - architecture that integrates environmental sensitivity, efficient resource stewardship, and climate-conscious building.
- To support and elevate emerging architects, nurturing young professionals to contribute meaningfully to the profession and to society.
- To acknowledge the lifetime contribution of distinguished architects whose work has profoundly shaped practice, pedagogy, and professional culture in Bangladesh.
- To foster a platform for discourse and inspiration
 - showcasing exemplary works that advance the cause of architecture as a public art and social responsibility.

Award Categories & Eligibility

The Delta Award for Architecture comprises two principal categories with ten sub-category, each designed to honor a distinct dimension of architectural achievement.

Awards Recognizing Projects

A

The DELTA Sustainability and Resilience Awards

This stream recognizes projects that merge superior architectural craft with environmental stewardship, climate adaptation, resource efficiency, and material innovation.

Category A1: Climate-Resilient & Adaptive Design

Buildings and landscaping specifically engineered to tackle deltaic challenges—such as flooding, salinity, sea-level rise, or extreme heat—through innovative architectural form, site planning, or climate-adaptive structural engineering.

Category A2: Green Architecture & Energy Efficiency

Highly functional, aesthetically compelling projects that significantly minimize carbon footprints, maximize passive cooling/daylighting, or integrate renewable energy and circular building systems effectively.

Category A3: Rural, Vernacular & Material Innovation

Projects of any scale showcasing a modern architectural language through the innovative use of local materials (like bamboo, earth, or local brick) or alternative low-carbon building technologies.

Category A4: Ecological Landscaping & Urban Ecosystems

Landscape architecture and open spaces designed for environmental restoration, urban water management, or biodiversity enhancement, such as- Public parks, open urban spaces, open grounds of sports facilities, corporate plazas, pedestrian zones, transport infrastructure landscapes, and waterfront developments.

B

The DELTA Contextual and Social Impact Awards

This stream recognizes projects that leverage design excellence to elevate community life, enhance the public domain, celebrate civic and cultural identity, or propose visionary solutions for the future.

Category B1 : Heritage Conservation, Restoration & Adaptive Reuse

Projects dedicated to preserving architectural, historical, or cultural narratives through restoration or creative adaptive reuse that makes the site relevant and functional for contemporary life. For example- preservation and

B

restoration of historic structures, and the adaptive reuse of any typology (e.g., a heritage home converted into a boutique hotel, or an old warehouse adapted into a vibrant corporate or retail space, cultural space).

Category B2: Civic, Cultural & Institutional Impact

Purpose-built public or private institutions that anchor communities, deliver essential services, or honor collective identity through inspiring architectural forms.

Category B3: The People's Habitat & Inclusive Architecture

Architecture realized outside the traditional profit-driven or standard office-client dynamic, focusing on equity, affordability, community empowerment, and dignified spaces for all, such as- affordable multi-unit housing, mass housing, dormitories, worker-centric industrial facilities, and participatory community-built spaces.

Category B4: Mixed-Use & Integrated Spaces

Complex, multi-functional projects that blend diverse programmatic requirements into a single integrated building envelope, enhancing urban efficiency, accessibility, and density.

Category B5: Unbuilt Visionary Architecture Award

Conceptual or unrealized professional competition entries of any typology that propose bold, forward-thinking, and structurally imaginative solutions to the physical, economic, or social challenges of Bangladesh.

Awards Recognizing Architects

C

The DELTA Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominators are invited to submit a narrative of approximately 200 words describing the nominee's career-long contribution to architecture — encompassing built works, professional leadership, and contributions to education. This award may also be conferred posthumously. Self-nominations are not accepted.

D

The DELTA Architect of the Year Award

Open to individual architects, architectural practices and organizations actively engaged in architectural practice within Bangladesh. This highest recognition of the Award honors a Bangladeshi architect or architectural practice whose professional works demonstrates exceptional contribution to contemporary architecture in Bangladesh. The recipient will be selected from among the architects of all the shortlisted projects across all project categories, based on the additional information requested to be submitted for the 2nd round of the jury process. The award acknowledges excellence in design innovation, professional and academic achievements, and overall contribution to the architectural discourse of Bangladesh.

E

The DELTA Emerging Architect of the Year Award

Open to architects aged 40 years or younger, and to architectural firms whose partners are all aged 40 years or younger. The recipient will be selected from among the architects of all the shortlisted projects across all project categories, based on the additional information requested to be submitted for the 2nd round of the jury process. This category recognizes emerging architectural voices whose work demonstrates creativity, originality, and professional promise. Where a young architect does not hold IAB membership, depending on the building typology, the “official project team” must have at least one active IAB Member or Associate Member, aged 40 years or below for compliance of the Awards.

F

The DELTA Architectural Scholar Award

This category recognizes outstanding books and edited volumes that have made significant contributions to the understanding, documentation, history, theory, and critical discourse of architecture in Bangladesh. Open to books published on or before **31 July 2026**, nominations may be submitted by designated academic and professional bodies, including heads of architecture departments, IAB Fellows, architectural historians and critics and academic publishers. Self-nominations are not accepted. The recipient shall be selected by a separate Jury Board based on the scholarly merit, originality, and lasting contribution.

Awards & Prizes

The following prizes shall be awarded at the Delta Award for Architecture Ceremony:

Awards Recognizing Architects	The DELTA Lifetime Achievement Award	BDT 350,000, Trophy & Certificate
	The DELTA Architect of the Year Award	BDT 250,000, Trophy & Certificate
	The DELTA Emerging Architect of the Year Award	BDT 250,000, Trophy & Certificate
	The DELTA Architectural Scholar Award	BDT 250,000, Trophy & Certificate
	Honorable Mention (Max 2 prizes for DELTA Scholar)	BDT 100,000, & Certificate
Awards Recognizing Projects	The DELTA Sustainability and Resilience Awards (± 4 Prizes)	BDT 200,000, Trophy & Certificate
	The DELTA Contextual and Social Impact Awards (± 5 Prizes)	BDT 200,000, Trophy & Certificate
	Honorable Mention (Could be multiple prizes)	BDT 100,000 & Certificate

Privileges for the Winners and the Participants

All Valid Participants

- Projects to be Featured in the Official “Awards Monograph”
- Entitled to a Complimentary Copy of the Awards Monograph

Shortlisted Architects

- In addition to the privileges mentioned above: Invitation to the Award Ceremony
- Projects to be Featured in the Exhibition at the Venue
- Social Media Features & Mentions

Winners

- In addition to the privileges mentioned above: Complimentary 1-year Subscription to ARCHICONNECT Homes
- National Media Coverage (Press & Television) and Social Media Features & Mentions
- Winning Projects To be Featured in the স্থাপত্যশিল্প (Sthapatyashilpa) Video Documentary Series
- Promotion of awarded projects and architects through relevant national and international professional networks
- Post-award visibility through curated networking events, industry interactions, and stakeholder engagement programs.

The Jury & The Advisors

The Delta Award for Architecture are evaluated by a distinguished five-member Jury Board constituted to ensure rigor, diversity of perspective, and professional authority.

Composition

The Jury Board for the Selection of the Projects and the Architects comprises three eminent Bangladeshi architects from the practice and the academia, one foreign architect and a scholar from another discipline. The Chairperson shall be the senior most local architect on the panel. The distinguished Jury Board members for the current cycle are:

Ar. Saif Ul Haque,

Principal, Saif Ul Haque Sthapati

Dr. Firdous Azim,

Professor, Department of English, BRAC University

Ar. Prof. Rafiq Azam,

Principal Architect, Shatotto-Architecture for Green Living

Ar. Ehsan Khan,

Principal Architect, Ehsan Khan Architects Limited

Ar. Niklaus Graber,

Co-Founder, Graber & Steiger Architects

A separate Jury Board for the DELTA Architectural Scholar Award, comprising of the following three distinguished architects, academics, and scholars for the current cycle are:

Ar. Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad,

Former Faculty, BUET; Principal Architect & Partner, DWm4 Architects

Ar. Dr. Sheikh Serajul Hakim,

Professor, DoA, Khulna University (KU)

Ar. Aida Hassan,

Lecturer, DoA, North South University (NSU)

—Technical Advisor — An IFC-nominated Technical Advisor will provide guidance on sustainability-related technical aspects to the Jury Board for the submitted projects in the Delta Sustainability & Resilience Award category.

—Awards Director

Ar. Dr. Nabanita Islam, Associate Prof. of NSU will be the Awards Director of the current cycle.

—Advisor

Ar. Jalal Ahmed, Founder & CEO, ARCHICONNECT will be acting as advisor to the Awards.

Presentation of Awards

Ceremony Venue — The Awards will be announced and presented at the International Convention City, Bashundhara (ICCB).

Award Recipient — Awards are presented to individuals, a team, firm, or organization. The name of the Lead Architect or a nominee designated by him/her shall appear first in the certificate.

Government Entries — The head of the submitting entity has to identify the design architect(s), structural engineer, and MEP engineers by name in the entry form. If successful, the names of the individuals or the organization will appear only on the Award certificate as mentioned in the entry form.

Team Member Credit — Names of the project team members, including the structural & MEP Designers may be cited in the award certificate, provided the name/s are given in the entry form.

Award Acceptance — Awardees are expected to receive their award in person. Where attendance is not possible, a prior-nominated representative may accept on the awardee's behalf with advance written confirmation.

Exhibition & Publication — Winning entries will be exhibited and reproduced in brochures, journals, magazines, books and print, electronic & social media as determined by the DELTA Award for Architecture.

Payment — Prize money will be disbursed by Account Payee

Cheque — to the recipient whose name is written in the entry form at the award ceremony.

Unclaimed Award — The awardee must encash the cheque within six months of the date mentioned in the cheque.

Important Dates

- **July 16, 2026**
The submission portal officially opens to the public.
- **July 16, 2026**
Official launch event in Dhaka. ARCHICONNECT, CEMS Global and IFC deliver their initial vision presentations.
- **August 16, 2026**
a. Official Closing Time for Submissions.

b. Nominations Closing for the Delta Lifetime Achievement Award and the Architectural Scholar Award.

● **August 17 – August 28, 2026**

Extended Deadline for Submission (Discretionary extension).

● **August 29 – September 2, 2026**

Awards Secretariat Scrutiny Phase. Checking for compliance (IAB membership validations, completion certificates, and issuing reminders for missing documents).

● **September 3 – September 4, 2026 (2 Days)**

First Round Jury Session.

a. The 5-member jury board reviews the scrutinized digital entries to evaluate the projects and finalize the shortlists of the projects for the Delta Sustainable and Resilience Awards and the Delta Contextual and Social Impact Awards.

b. Based on the submissions, the jury board review the documents for the nomination for The DELTA Lifetime Achievement Award and recommend the Awards Director to collect additional information, if any, needed for further review.

● **September 3- September 30, 2026**

Book Review by the Jury for the Delta Architectural Scholar Award. Each Jury Board Member independently reviews all submitted projects and logs their personal shortlist.

● **September 9, 2026**

a. Emails to be sent to all the architects of the shortlisted projects along with guidelines for the mandatory video presentations & the prescribed forms; Site Visit-The jury board may, at its discretion, also appoint on-site reviewers to the shortlisted project sites.

b. Emails to be sent to the nominator of **The DELTA Lifetime Achievement Award**.

● **September 10 – September 30, 2026**

Shortlisted Architects Preparation Window.

a. Architects compile, edit, and upload their supplementary video presentations (not exceeding two minutes in length);

b. The architects of shortlisted projects in the DELTA Sustainability and Resilience Award category will be assessed and recognized by scientific evidence based system, EDGE App introduced by IFC. The architects of all submitted projects will be invited to attend an introductory webinar. With the expert assistance from IFC, the architects of the shortlisted projects will attend personalized demonstration session of EDGE App and will submit a short report on the evaluation of their project.

c. Relevant personal professional and academic information of the architects of the shortlisted projects in the prescribed form for consideration of the **Delta Emerging Architect of the Year Award and Delta Architect of the Year Award**.

● **October 1 – October 6, 2026**

Secretariat Scrutiny Window.

a. Downloading, formatting, and technical review of all submitted video presentations, information provided in the prescribed forms to ensure seamless playback for the final jury session.

b. Compilation of the personal information of the shortlisted architects for review by the jury board for the **Delta Emerging Architect of the Year Award** and **Delta Architect of the Year Award**.

● **October 7- October 12, 2026**

Final Round Jury Session for Selecting the Projects & Architects

a. The jury board reconvenes to watch the video presentations, evaluate the final contenders, and select the category winners via majority vote.

b. For the DELTA Sustainability and Resilience Award category, the jury board assess the EDGE App reports submitted by the shortlisted projects with the assistance of IFC experts.

c. The jury will also review the submitted records and decide the **Delta Emerging Architect of the Year Award**, **Delta Architect of the Year Award** and the **DELTA Lifetime Achievement Award** All final decisions will be sealed, signed and submitted to the Awards Director by the Jury Chairperson.

d. The Jury Board for the Delta Architectural Scholar Award meets to finalise the Nominee(s). Final decision is sealed, signed and submitted to the Awards Director by the Jury Chairperson.

● **October 13- November 5, 2026**

a. Publication & Production Window.

b. Editing, graphic layout, and high-fidelity printing of the official Awards.

c. Monograph featuring valid participants and shortlisted works.

d. Handcrafting of the Delta Award Trophies for winners across all categories.

e. Printing of formal winners' and participants' certificates.

f. Processing of prize money account payee checks.

● **November 12, 2026 (Evening)**

The Delta Awards Gala Night. The grand finale event of the festival where winners are publicly announced and presented with their cash prizes, trophies, and certificates.

● **December 1, 2026- January 31, 2027**

Tentative timeline for regional architect meets. To celebrate awarded architects, build direct relationships with wider architectural and engineering community, the team conducts a swift tour of five major cities i.e Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna, and Rajshahi.

Support & Enquiries

For terms, eligibility conditions, and category-specific guidelines, applicants are required to consult the “Delta Award for Architecture” Terms and Conditions document, available on the official website.

Should any participant encounters difficulty during the application process, the Award Secretariat may be contacted directly at the email address published on the website. For general queries about the award platform, please contact:

contact@deltaaward.com

Delta Award for Architecture Secretariat

Address: B3, Rabbee House, CEN (B)11, Road 99,
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DELTA AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE

An initiative of ARCHICONNECT & CEMS Global

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